

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 4 and 9-15 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 9 were rejected. No claims were withdrawn. No claims were merely objected to and claims 10-15 were allowed. By entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or devotion of the subject matter to the public, no claims were amended, and no new claims were added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10-15. Applicants thank the Examiner for investing the time and effort to search the prior art and determine the subject matter of claims 10-15 is allowable.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner asserts claims 1, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4 and 9, thus rendering the present rejection moot.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner asserts claim 1, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4 and 9, thus rendering the present rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,
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